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AMERICAN AND ITALIAN MARBLE
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In Stock
Prices moderate. Work promptly done.
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DUNFORD'S FLUID MAGNESIA.
The best remedy for Acidity of the Stomach.
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A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

AERATED WATERS.

GINGERALE
LEMONADE
LEMON SQUASH
LITHIA WATER
PHOSPHORIC CHAMPAGNE
POTASH WATER
RASPBERRYADE
SARSAPARILLA
SELTZER WATER
SODA WATER
TONIC WATER.

In the manufacture of these Waters the purest ingredients only are used, and the utmost care and cleanliness exercised throughout. The Water used is subjected to a perfect system of filtration, daily examinations, and periodically to searching chemical analyses; so that absolute purity and safety are guaranteed.

FOR COAST PORTS
Waters are packed and placed on Board at Hongkong Prices and the full amount allowed for Freight and Duties when received in good order.

SUMMER BEVERAGES.

FRUIT COBBLERS—Raspberry, Strawberry, Lime, Lemon, Black Currant, Red Currant, Pine Apple, Orange, Pear, Melon, Cherry, and Gooseberry.

FRUIT SYRUPS—Lemon, Lime, Juices, Raspberry, Strawberry, etc.

Prepared from Genuine Fruit Juices imported by ourselves, they contain the full flavor of the sound ripe fruit, mixed with plain or Aerated Water, they make delicious Summer Drinks.

AGENTS FOR

MONTBERRAT LINE
AND COGNAC.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

PORTS—BURGUINDIES, SHERRIES, COGNACS, CHAMPAGNES, LIQUORS, WHISKIES, RUM, etc.

A large selection of choice Old Brands.

Full particulars and prices on application.

TOBACCO.

CIGARS AND CIGARETTES.

A complete stock of all the best and most popular Brands.

VIN DE QUINQUINA.

A Medicinal Wine agreeable to the taste containing the valuable properties of Quinine. Black combined with a choice Brand of Red Wine.

Its powerful salt-fibre qualities tend to ward off malaria fever, and to all convalescents it acts as a quick restorative and appetizer.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 22nd July, 1922.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Only communications relating to business columns should be addressed to "The Editor."
Correspondents are requested to forward their names and addresses with communications addressed to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.

No anonymous or signed communications that have appeared in our columns will be published again unless accompanied by a note from the Editor, or unless the Editor is satisfied that the Editor has the right to publish them.

Telegraphic Address: Press. Telephone No. 12.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, SEPTEMBER 10TH, 1922.

This report of the British Consul at Chungking on the trade of that port for 1891 came to hand by last mail, and although the Customs report has already appeared, and the statistics are therefore known, Mr. FULFORD's remarks on the conditions and prospects of trade at this terminus of the foreign trade on the Yangtze are specially interesting as it is the first year in which it has ranked as a treaty port. The total amount of foreign trade in 1891 was less than 1890, but, as the Consul points out, it would be premature to draw comparisons as the change of systems necessarily involved some disturbance of the course of business. The carrying trade so far has been monopolized by chartered junk, mostly of very small border, foreign merchants not caring at first, presumably, to build or purchase native craft for the purpose. The plan found for the time being, says Mr. FULFORD, is to pay freight to the junk-owner per package. This is also the custom in the native trade, and is thought to be the most satisfactory. Were the shippers of cargo the owners of the junks they would find it difficult to check malpractices and carelessness on the part of their captains and crews. For valuable cargoes the smaller boats are preferred, as they are much less liable to accidents in the rapids. Bunks are divided as much as possible, and large consignments in one boat are rare. The Consul goes on to say "As there is some prospect of a company being

started to insure the cargoes of foreign chartered junks, the future of the risk may be to some extent indicated by a review of the accidents which occurred during the half-year of traffic in 1891. Of 300 upward-bound foreign chartered junks 5 were wrecked, and of 397 downward-bound junks 8 were wrecked. None of the cargo of these wrecked junks was actually lost. It was dried and forwarded to its destination. It thus appears that to boats carefully selected, of medium size, and well manned, the risk is not so great as has been generally imagined. Exceptional seasons, however, occur, when sudden freshets do enormous damage and raise the average of loss considerably. The Yangtze is not an accommodating river. The season when traffic is easiest between Ichang and Chungking is during the winter, when the water is low and the current slack; but the reverse is the case between Ichang and Hankow, the summer being more favourable for navigation because there is then greater depth of water in the shallows. The steamship companies engaged in the trade have been making efforts to provide for this condition of things, and the Indo-China S. N. Co. recently placed a light draft boat on this route built for the purpose. The China Merchants' Co. ran the little Kuei-king, which was originally designed by the Upper Yangtze Steam Navigation Company to force a way up the rapids to Chungking. In the event of the steamer accommodation not being equal to the necessities of the trade Mr. FULFORD thinks that large storage godowns would be advisable at Ichang. Possibly both facilities will be provided.

With regard to the import trade, there was a large falling off as compared with that of the previous year, but Mr. FULFORD explains this by stating that 1890 was an exceptionally prosperous one in Szechuen. The crops were good, exchange was favourable, and there was a general desire to lay in stocks on the part of the Chungking merchants. Then there was the change in the system, when the conservative Chinese did not like or trust very much. In spite of this, however, the imports of 1891 were larger than in any preceding year save only 1890. The principal falling off was in grey shirtings and cotton yarn. The decrease in the import of cotton piece goods is of course, says Mr. FULFORD, the result of the preference of the Chinese for cotton yarn, and has been increasingly evident since 1889, in which year the cotton yarn trade commenced its great extension. The quality most valued in the yarn is its evenness of size and surface. The Indian yarn is preferred to the English as being coarser and therefore better adapted to the manufacture of cloth more like the native article. The decrease in the import of yarn in 1891 was attributed by the Chungking merchants to overstocking, but a rise in the price of yarn in the market had some effect in checking sales. It seems that the cotton yarn competes directly with the raw cotton of the Lower Yangtze, both being used by the Szechuenese in weaving, and that as the price of yarn is largely supported by this raw cotton the local authorities have determined to make good deficiencies by levying duty on cotton yarn. Mr. FULFORD says: "The price of cotton yarn is therefore more strictly controlled, and has been raised both at the Chungking barriers and at those further in the interior. An attempt made in November, 1891, to send cotton yarn to its destination under transit passes was met, first, by delay at the barriers, notably at Hoochow, 80 miles north of Chungking, on the large tributary joining the Yangtze at this town; and secondly, by the imposition of a differential duty of 10 per cent on cotton yarn, and of 3 per cent on cotton cloth. Such a rate is of course prohibitory, as ordinary piece goods would not exceed 3 shillings, and the transit duty is 17 1/2 per cent. ad valorem. The use of transit passes has therefore abruptly ceased, pending discussion of the question. It is to be regretted that Szechuen has followed the example of the province of Kwangtung in this respect, as such a tax minimises the advantages gained by making Chungking the port of entry for foreign goods in place of Hankow and Ichang. A similar difficulty arose when foreign goods were first brought into Szechuen from Hankow, but in 1880, in response to a memorial to the Throne, a reduction was made in the yearly estimate of duty to be accounted for by the Szechuenese through which the goods passed. It is to be hoped that a similar course may be adopted in the present case, or the trade will continue to be hampered. In theory, and according to Treaty, the transit pass clears the goods of further liability, but in practice it is unfortunately found not to be the case, and spite of all protests by the Consul authorities the levy is persevered with.

The Consul gives some details concerning the minor articles of import which may be useful. He says the two of kerosene oil is rapidly increasing. The steamers resort to carry it, and it is therefore conveyed up under transit pass from Hankow. No objection seems to be made to the use of this oil in Chungking from fear of confiscation. The town is well supplied with small manual fire-engines, and the brigade is able to successfully grapple with fires. Cotton umbrellas of a cheap description are largely imported. Being much lighter than the clumsy native articles, they find much favour as sunshades, and in Chien especially they are taking the place of the large straw hats formerly in fashion. They are sold retail for very low prices, ranging from 1s. 6d. to 2s. each. In Chungking, Mr. FULFORD adds, they are making umbrellas of their own, employing bamboo instead of iron for the framework. These are cheaper than the foreign article, but are even cheaper. Watches, clocks, candles, iron safes, and many more articles coming under the head of luxuries are appreciated, and the prevalence of trade in such goods may be looked for. The Szechuenese, however, are evidently not too conservative to imitate ideas. In addition to the umbrella manufacture, in imitation of the imported goods, two match factories have been established in the suburbs of Chungking. They make matches the Consul, a most interesting

match, but as it underlies the foreign article, it is a ready sale.

The general conditions of trade at Chungking have so far, Mr. FULFORD observes, remained unaffected by the opening of the port. That is to say, the distributing trade continues entirely in the hands of native merchants. The carrying trade is in the hands of the three great steamer companies, whose agents, charter junks to carry cargo from Chungking to Ichang, where it is transferred to their respective steamers. With regard to the future of the trade, Mr. FULFORD writes: "Without steamers, however, or a foreign bank, the prevailing order is not likely to be much disturbed. It is doubtful if, under present conditions, foreign merchants could successfully compete with the long-established and well-organized native trading firms now in possession of the foreign import trade, but they could do much towards the extension of the trade by pressing on more widely reaching use of transit passes."

Hitherto Chungking has been the terminus of the system. It should now be pushed on, as required to counteract heavy losses to the yards of the province and into adjoining ones. The efforts to do so have so far met with decided failure as before described. The narrow area to which Chungking native merchants confine their operations must add largely to the prices paid by the ultimate buyers of foreign goods. The middlemen are unnecessarily numerous. The wholesale Chungking merchant buys his supplies in Shanghai. He sells again to a wholesale merchant who has an establishment in Chungking. The latter conveys the goods to up-country towns, where he sells to the wholesale dealers, who sell to the retail retailers. The second in this series, the travelling merchant, is generally allowed five months' credit. If he pays for his goods before the expiration of that time, he obtains a discount of 10 per cent. per month, which makes a handsome rate of interest for the year. It is clear from these remarks that the writer sees little prospect of any great development of foreign trade except through the transit pass system. In this provision the foreign merchant has a most valuable concession enabling him to send goods into remote districts from the various treaty ports, and Chungking is a very important centre, from whence access can be obtained to any part of the largest and wealthiest province of China. Seeing the value of this privilege the Foreign Ministers should take special care to jealously guard it for their nationals against the continued attempts of the provincial officials to nullify it by imposing illegal exactions and placing all kinds of obstacles in the way of its being utilised. The Kwangtung officials succeeded by unscrupulous methods in reducing the transit pass clause of the Treaty to a dead letter for many years, and even now they are working hard to make the privilege valueless. We trust, however, that with the arrival of Mr. O'Connor a change for the better will be inaugurated and the Chinese provincial officials compelled to observe both the letter and the spirit of the treaties.

There will be a Church of England service in the Peak Church to-morrow (Sunday) at 5 o'clock p.m.

The Indo-China steamer *Chelidra*, from Calcutta and Straits, left Singapore at 6 p.m. on the 8th inst. for this port.

A notice of the wedding of Mr. Edith J. Kelly, the well-known barmaid of "The Peppermint Tree," was published in the Press of the 7th inst. The bride was Miss Fanny Shires, who was married to Mr. Kelly at 11 a.m. on the 8th inst. at St. Peter's (Seaside) Church, returning about 12.30.

An original article "Among Old Books" also a selected tale, "The Strange Story of a Band," will be found on the fifth page, and on the sixth an instalment of our serial story "A Secret Quest," by George Manville Fenn.

Messrs. Dowell, Currie & Co. inform us that Mr. Alexander Marshall B.M.E. yesterday morning received telegraphic news that the *Compania*, the first of the 14,000-ton steamers now building for the Cunard Line, was safely launched on the 8th inst. at Fairhead.

To-morrow morning, between 9 and 10.30 o'clock, the steam launch *Drayton*, carrying the British flag, will also, after a week's holiday and a cruise to the coast, be ready to receive visitors at 11 a.m. service at St. Peter's (Seaside) Church, returning about 12.30.

The Sydney Herald publishes the following telegram:—London, 10th August.—The Chinese Minister at Washington has been recalled. The reason for this step is stated to be the discovery of the transactions of the Minister in connection with the formation of an international bank.

A python measuring 18 feet in length was lately captured in the grounds of Messrs. D. Brown & Co. at Singapore. The python was brought to the city by a coolie, and was kept by Mr. Engler, one of the partners, about a year ago, and the python now in Messrs. Brown & Co.'s godown is supposed to be the identical one.

The Stanley Opera Company arrived here yesterday afternoon by the P. & O. steamer *Eden*. While the troupe was passing the ship was lying along in Amoy harbour, and so the Company had no experience to recount yesterday beyond the usual incidents of a voyage. They gave one matinee and one night show, and were well patronised. Last night, at the Theatre Royal, they presented "The Mountebanks," the latest London success, and to-night a variety entertainment. The troupe is composed of twelve men, and the Dutch actress, Governor General's Jacobus for Sauranger.

There was a long roll of cases and a big number of soldiers at the Summary Court yesterday. All the cases in which the black-robed gentlemen appeared were adjourned on application, and the fact that they were adjourned to a future day of public interest. One of two defendants in a suit, a gentleman of colour, against whom judgment was given with costs, gave an original promise of the Scotch power. "To name the breach of a Highlandman," by remarking, "How can I pay money I steal?" The truth of the matter was apparently more obvious to the speaker than to the judge, who replied in strong tones, "Don't be impertinent!"

We have received a copy of the Report of Proceedings at the Royal Colonial Institute for 1891-92. The volume is got up neatly in a small blue cover, and this year contains a view of the Institute Building in Northumberland Avenue as a frontispiece. The paper read during the session was "The History of the Empire in Australia, with the Conditions and Surroundings in 1891," by Professor Anderson, Stuart, British Columbia. A Problem of Colonial Development, by Mr. C. H. B. Brown, New Zealand. The Attraction of Visitors and Soldiers, by Mr. John Ferguson, Macquarie Island, and its Development, by Mr. R. A. Macdonald, New Zealand. The West Indies in 1892, by Lord Brassey. The dimensions on the paper also bring out many interesting facts connected with the Colonial Institute, and the publication of the report will no doubt be the means of disseminating very valuable information through the British Empire on pending portions of it.

A telegram in the Sydney Star, dated London, 8th inst., says: "The British Consul at Chungking has been informed that the Chinese Consul at Hongkong has been informed that the Chinese Consul at Shanghai has been informed that the Chinese Consul at Hankow has been informed that the Chinese Consul at Ichang has been informed that the Chinese Consul at Chungking has been informed that the Chinese Consul at Hongkong has been informed that the Chinese Consul at Shanghai has been informed that the Chinese Consul at Hankow has been informed that the Chinese Consul at Ichang has been informed that the Chinese Consul at Chungking has been informed that the Chinese Consul at Hongkong has been informed that the Chinese Consul at Shanghai has been informed that the Chinese Consul at Hankow has been informed that the Chinese Consul at Ichang has been informed that the Chinese Consul at Chungking has been informed that the Chinese Consul at Hongkong has been informed that the Chinese Consul at 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